THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

# MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

*"And above all things, clothe yourselves with the bond of charity, as with a mantle, which is the bond of perfectness and peace."* DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS 88: 125.

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## THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS A CHOSEN PEOPLE*

ELDER MELVIN J. BALLARD

OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TWELVE

A FEW WEEKS AGO a distinguished American, a member of President Coolidge's cabinet, Dr. Hubert Work, addressed the people assembled in this building on the Sabbath day.

I was not present, but I read the remarks he made. He took as his text a scripture familiar to the Latter-day Saints: "Where there is no vision, the people perish", and made the statement that he could find full evidence of its truth among the Latter-day Saints as a result of their building up these communities and establishing themselves in this western country. He regarded this as proof of their vision, through which they have accomplished something that is worthy of the notice and attention of the world. The Latter-day Saints are a people with a vision; they are a people with a mission and with a destiny. It is not a self-appointed mission. No people could feel otherwise than that they had a mission and a destiny who accepted the word of the Lord as the Latter-day Saints accept it, contained in the revelations received through the Prophet Joseph Smith concerning this people. It is full of promise for the future. They are entitled to feel that they have a mission, that they ought to have and do have a clear vision of how that mission shall be accomplished.

I desire to read a few words from one of those revelations, given by the Lord Jesus Christ to the Prophet Joseph Smith in

*Address delivered in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, Sunday, June 21, 1925.

the year eighteen hundred and thirty-two. I shall read from the 86th Section of the Doctrine and Covenants, commencing with the 8th paragraph as follows:

"Therefore, thus saith the Lord unto you, with whom the priesthood hath continued through the lineage of your fathers—

"For ye are lawful heirs, according to the flesh, and have been hid from the world with Christ in God—

"Therefore, your life and the priesthood have remained, and must needs remain through you and your lineage until the restoration of all things spoken by the mouths of all the holy prophets since the world began.

"Therefore, blessed are ye if ye continue in my goodness, a light unto the Gentiles, and through this priesthood, a saviour unto my people Israel. The Lord hath said it."

### WORDS OF PROMISE

Such words of assurance from the Lord Himself should fill a people, to whom they are addressed, with hope, with vision, with ambition to live up to those words of promise; that all the promises of the past should be realised through this people in the restoration of those things to man again in this latter dispensation; that they are to become the light of the world, a light unto the Gentiles, a city set upon a hill whose light should be seen to the ends of the earth, and that they should become the saviours of the whole House of Israel. These are the words of promise made to us, therefore we have reason to feel that we are a people with a mission and a destiny.

However, I have discovered that self-appointment does not bring a people any marked distinction, and that boasting about a thing of this character will not bring its realisation. I have discovered that there are three essential things that must be taken into account in order to realise the accomplishment of things so wonderful as those indicated in these words of promise which I have read.

The first thing to be taken into account is that if you are to establish a people as leaders among men, to attract the attention of the world, you must have a superior race to begin with, a chosen people. When God wanted to establish the United States of America, He sent into the world, beforehand, the right race of people to do the work, the right men. When the Lord gave Daniel to see, in his interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, the rise of peoples and nations, He was but revealing to Daniel that which He already knew, namely, the time of men's coming and their habitations.

### IS IT CHANCE?

He knew that beforehand. How does it happen that to-day, of the thousands of children born into the world, some are assigned

to the parents of South African peoples, others to Chinese, to Japanese, to Indians; others are favoured to come to beautiful white Christian mothers? Is it a matter of chance, or is it out of the caprice of the will of God who merely indicates a certain group to go to one place and another group to another, and some to be so highly favoured over others? No, in order to account for such a distribution of children to the mothers of the world to-day, we must know something of yesterday and the days that have preceded this day. For in the spirit world we lived, all of us, long before we ever were born, and in that long period of time in the exercise of our own free agency like was attracted unto like. Those who were faithful were drawn together as a group, those who were indifferent were similarly attracted, for each man and woman that used his or her free agency in the same identical way were naturally drawn to each other; and the wicked, the careless and indifferent, they were drawn together.

The Lord revealed all this to father Abraham; we have it in our own Scriptures; and on that occasion the Lord promised Abraham that he was to be the father of the faithful. That is more literally true than probably we have realised. It means that he was to be the father in the flesh of those who were faithful before they were born. No wonder He could make the promise that through Abraham and his posterity all the nations of the earth should be blessed; and so like upon the earth is drawing unto itself like from the spirit world, their own kind coming to their own group in the flesh, and so in and through the lineage of Abraham came the faithful.

### A ROYAL BRANCH

Then there was established a royal branch in the House of Israel through Joseph, the choice son of Jacob, the grandson of Abraham. Those blessings were so much greater than the blessings of his brothers that they brought upon him the envy, the hatred of his own brothers in the flesh; you remember how they sold him into Egypt to dispose of him. Yet the Lord was with him; He raised him up to be a deliverer, the saviour of the whole House of Israel, and upon Joseph's son, Ephraim, descended the choicest blessings that were upon the head of his father, Joseph.

This was the establishment of a royal branch of the House of Israel. Among the faithful there were some more faithful than others, and through this choice lineage of the House of Israel came those illustrious characters most faithful in the spirit world, even before they were born. So the Lord has sent them when He has needed men in the world to be world-leaders; He has sent them from those tested, tried and proven souls. When He wanted to establish the great American government, He sent the right kind of men to do the work, and although they were born in England, Holland, Switzerland and elsewhere in the Old World,

the very force of circumstances that was moving them towards God's purposes carried them away from the Old World into the New World, and they laid the foundation of this great American republic. So it has been with every great movement that God has established.

### AS THE PROPHET SAID

Tracing the history of these branches of the House of Israel, we discover that the Jews were to remain a distinct people, because of the peculiar promises made to their father, that through him and his posterity should come a King, a Messiah, the Deliverer of Israel. Yet they still look for His coming, not having accepted Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of the promise. They have remained a distinct people. But so far as the balance of the tribes of Israel are concerned, they have either been absorbed or scattered, as the Prophet Amos said they would; for he recognised that following the withdrawal of the Ten Tribes of Israel to the north country those who remained were of Israel and of Judah, and Judah was distinct and had been quite distinct from the House of Ephraim and Manassa and a portion of Benjamin that remained. They were called Israel, and the Prophet Amos said that Israel should be sifted among the Gentile nations; and so they were sifted, by marriage and intermarriage, and their identity lost.

Yet the Lord declared He would find them again, that He would not only bring Judah, that portion of Israel, back to the land of her fathers unto the land of Palestine, to rebuild Jerusalem, but that He would send fishers and hunters after them, and they would find them, just like Brother Jenson has been telling you that seventy-five years ago they entered the Scandinavian countries to search out and find these children of Ephraim, these sons of Joseph that have been absorbed among the Gentile nations, and yet their blood was there and the Lord said He would find them and bring them out, one of a city and two of a family.

### THE MELTING POT

It was the blood of Israel in that household that would hear and receive the message, and the Lord provided a place for them to come. When Israel Zangwill wrote his beautiful description of America as the "melting pot" of the nations of the earth, it thrilled and inspired me with the thought that America could become the melting pot of the nations where the men and women of all nationalties would come, and by the process of intermarrying, under the spirit and genius of the American government, produce a new and superior race of men, no longer to be called German or Irish or what not; but they were Americans, a new brand. I rejoice in that conception; but do you know I have always seen, since I read that thrilling portrayal of his vision of America as the melting pot of the nations, I have seen a superfine

process going on within the melting pot, I have seen men of all classes gathering to America.

But so far as this superfine process is concerned, it is the choosing and the picking of the very elect of the nations. As our Elders made their appeal, those who responded were only the clean in heart, the pure, who listened and heard with joy and gladness the message of the Gospel, the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, the gospel of purity, a gospel of sacrifice, a gospel of love.

### WEAKLINGS WEEDED OUT

And God picked them, the men and women of the various nations of the earth, that have come, one of a city, two of a family, selected them and brought them here, and the weaklings were weeded out. It is the survival of the fittest, of the best stock that ever came into the world. They were the best before they were born. A few months ago I read an article in one of our American magazines discussing the question, "Are the Jews the chosen people of God?" In this article the history of the Jews was traced and the blessings of God ascribed to them through their father Judah were set forth, but that the Jews should now claim the blessings pronounced upon Joseph, the brother of Judah, was denied them; and the article concluded: "If we could find somewhere the descendants of Joseph, we would indeed find the chosen people of God."

My soul was thrilled, because I knew that here among the Latter-day Saints were those chosen people of God, sons and daughters of that Joseph, who was sold into Egypt, through his son Ephraim. The right stock has been found. The right group has been selected by the Lord, for they are the inheritors of those superior blessings placed upon the head of their progenitors, even before we came, indeed before we were born. We too were selected to come into the earth at this time to do the extraordinary work which God had designed to have done in this last and greatest of all Gospel dispensations.

So we have found the right people. You must find then the right plan, for even the right people with the wrong plan could never succeed. The world is full of plans. It is full of theories. It has suffered from theorists; for all sorts of isms, creeds and schemes have arisen, even under the name of the Church, to bring to pass the Millennium, to solve the world's problems; and each in turn, as it has been tested, has dismally failed.

### STANDING THE TEST

Some one has said that you can never tell the merits of a scheme or a plan when you hear it enunciated by the originator of the plan, the theoriser. You have to wait to see how it works out in the lives of those who accept it and live it. So "Mormonism", so-called, has been standing the test applied to it in the lives of

those who have accepted it and have lived up to the teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, who as you have heard, received his plan and his instructions from the heavens, through inspired servants of God, commissioned with authority to come to the earth and give to man again the plan.

The very plan itself is evidence that this is the chosen people, because even the bitterest enemies of the "Mormon" Church have conceded that there is no religious body in all the world that has a plan of organisation so perfect as the "Mormon" Church. We did not originate it, the Prophet Joseph Smith did not read the Scriptures and devise a scheme or a plan of organisation. His simple statement is that Peter, James and John did come to him, that these inspired servants of God laid before him the plan to organise this Church. The Lord Jesus Christ gave him the principles of this Gospel. It contains the key for the solution of every problem that now vexes the world; and the marvelous thing about this "Mormon" plan is not so much that it is so complicated and so much superior, so far as its system and scheme of things is concerned, but the most wonderful thing about it is that it works; it is practical, it is suited to the capacity of the weakest of the weak; it can take those who have no experience, and train them, drill them and lift them up in every department. Intellectually, industrially, spiritually and physically. Yes.

### ESPECIAL CARE

We have not only brought these choice men and women from the nations of the earth but have given them a care no other group has received—and I have thought of this many times—they were not dumped down as great hordes of people have been who were brought to America with just enough means to land and then left in the congested districts of the eastern cities, under the most adverse circumstances. Thank God for the wise leaders who brought us away from those great centers of population to this western country where, under the highest guidance ever given to man, we are tested and tried in that fine melting pot under a plan which is designed to produce a superior race of men and women, the like of which the world has never seen.

You mix the blood of these Scandinavians with the blood of the English and the German, and with a race of men living up to the requirement of the Gospel of Christ, and they will naturally produce the most beautiful women, the handsomest men, and the most completely developed men and women in the world. You have here the foundation for physical strength, for physical beauty, for physical and mental power. Then, again, that plan contemplates, as I have said; the solution of the problems that are to-day vexing and distressing the world.

Is it a problem between capital and labour? If that is your

problem, look at the solution of it as God has given it to the Latter-day Saints under the schoolmaster, which is the law of tithing; and the Latter-day Saints who are observing the law of tithing are being brought together in a bond of common interest, in a bond of common fellowship, for the common good, that is making them a hundred years nearer the solution of that problem than any other race of people in the world.

### AS NOTHING ELSE WILL

Is it the spirit of universal brotherhood which we hope and dream will come? There is no people under the heavens that have the spirit of universal brotherhood as the Latter-day Saints have it, because of our missionary system wherein we call out thousands of young men and young women to go away to the ends of the earth, at their own expense, not to find comfort, not to find some financial advantage, but merely to find some of their brothers and sisters whom they do not even know, but with the love of brotherhood in their hearts, they are making these sacrifices to bring unto them the glad message that God has spoken. It is developing that spirit of brotherhood as nothing else will. There is nothing in the world that can compare with it.

Is it the care of your poor? Look at the solution we have—for as the Master said: "For the poor always ye have with you." So we will, and all people will have their poor. If that is your problem, look how the Lord has solved it for us, that we may take care of our poor, if we only live up to the plan, without the expenditure of a cent. It is provided for in the fast-day that comes once each month, the first Sunday in the month. When we observe the fast, abstain from two meals, and give to the Bishop of the ward the equivalent of that which we have saved, which goes into a common fund, it should be adequate to take care of the needs of all the poor of all the Church. Thus, not only is the relief of the poor accomplished, but those who fast are benefited immeasurably themselves, and that which they have saved will take care of the poor. Any people that can take care of their poor without any cost to themselves have a financial advantage over all their competitors.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

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"LUCK" AND "LABOUR" both begin with the same letter, but end with very different results. Luck is ever waiting for something to turn up; labour, with keen eye and strong will, bravely turns up something. Luck lies in bed, and wishes that the postman would bring him news of a legacy; labour turns out at six o'clock, and, with busy pen or dinging hammer, lays the foundation of competence. Luck whines, labour whistles; luck relies on chance, labour on character; luck slips downward to indigence, labour strides upwards to independence.—SELECTED.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1925

## EDITORIAL

### TWO MISSIONS INSTEAD OF ONE

The Swiss-German Mission holds a place of honourable prominence in the missionary history of the Church. For over three-quarters of a century the glad tidings of the restored Gospel, and the re-establishment of the Church of Jesus Christ have been proclaimed in these lands; and as a result, tens of thousands of honest souls have heard, believed, and accepted the Divine word.

For a period of over forty years, missionary service in the two nations was directed by one presidency; then with the two countries as separate units; and again, dating from 1904, as a single Mission, with headquarters first at Zurich and later at Basel. Branches in Austria have been included in this Mission.

During the greater part of the last decade the growth of the Church in this field has been greater than ever before. In August, 1925, the membership comprised 11,430 souls, classified as to location in sixteen main divisions known as Conferences.

In the interests of efficiency it has been deemed advisable to divide the Mission; and, in accordance with the decision of the First Presidency and the Council of the Twelve Apostles, preparations for such division have been in progress for several months. The segregation is made, not on the basis of nationality, but according to distribution of members of the Church, accessibility of conference centers and branches by the principal lines of travel, and other considerations of convenience and effectiveness in administration.

The division was made at a general conference held in Chemnitz on Sunday, August 23rd. The Western part retains the name "Swiss-German Mission", and the Eastern section is to be known as the "German-Austrian Mission." As announced at the conference:

> The dividing line begins just east of Rostock, on the shore of the Baltic Sea, runs west of Gustrow and Erfurt to the south, then curves below Hof to the German-Chechoslovakian frontier. Thence the German-Checkian and German-Austrian border constitutes the dividing line, which continues from the most southerly point of the German-Austrian border directly southward.

Thus segregated, the Swiss-German Mission comprises the fol-

lowing eight conferences: Hamburg, Hannover, Cologne, Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Basel, Zurich, Berne. The membership of record of this Mission is 5,305 souls.

As now constituted, the German-Austrian Mission comprises also eight conferences, these being: Koenigsberg, Breslau, Stettin, Berlin, Leipzig, Chemnitz, Dresden, Wien. The recorded membership of this Mission is 6,125 souls.

President Fred Tadje will be in charge of the German-Austrian Mission, and President Hugh J. Cannon will preside over the Swiss-German Mission.

President Tadje and family are already established at the Dresden home which is now the headquarters of the German-Austrian Mission. His release from the presidency of the Western section is cause for inevitable sorrow on the part of the thousands of devoted Latter-day Saints within that area, to whom he has endeared himself by efficient service and loving ministry. However, the saddening effect of the change is mitigated by the welcoming of President Cannon and family, who are now domiciled in the Church home at Basel, which will remain the headquarters of the Swiss-German Mission. President Hugh J. Cannon took charge of that Mission in 1904, following a period of devoted service as President of the German Mission only; and he now returns to his former position of presidency under conditions of rich promise of increase in the work of the Lord within his field.

Sister Eliza Walz Tadje retains her position as President of the Relief Society in the German-Austrian Mission; and Sister Sarah Richards Cannon occupies a similar position in the Swiss-German Mission.

The division of the former unified Mission, which comprised sixteen Conferences, into two Missions, each having eight conferences, promises much by way of increased efficiency and stable growth. Each of the Mission officers will be able to give closer and more detailed attention to the component units within his field; and we may confidently hope that the saving message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ will be accepted by yet greater numbers of the good people of these countries than have hitherto been reached by the gladsome sound.—J E. T.

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I HAVE NO FEARS in my heart, or mind, that that which is called "Mormonism"—which is indeed the Gospel of Jesus Christ—will not bear the scrutiny of science and the researches of the learned and literate into all truth. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is founded in truth. Every principle of it is susceptible of demonstration beyond any just reason for contradiction. The Lord is doing His work and will do it, and no power can stay it.—PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH in *Gospel Doctrine*.

# WHAT HATH GOD WROUGHT!*

ELDER JOHN WELLS
OF THE PRESIDING BISHOPRIC

IT IS A PLEASURE AND A PRIVILEGE to attend the conference gatherings of the Latter-day Saints, and at every gathering of this character we receive inspiration and encouragement. We get a deeper sympathy with the world and all its problems. It is a great privilege to be a Latter-day Saint. One of the old prophets said that in the latter days there would be a great distinction. Men and women would say they were "born in Zion", and happy are those to whom this blessing has come.

Yesterday, when I heard the statement made by President Grant, showing the progress of this Church, the receipts and disbursements of its funds, converts to the Gospel at home and abroad, the number of children baptised into the Church, etc., I thought to myself "What hath God wrought!" Then my thoughts went back to the first prayer of the Prophet Joseph Smith, when he went into a wooded enclosure to inquire of the Lord as to which Church he should join, his family having already become affiliated with some of the sects whose members were proselyting in that neighbourhood. I have walked up the little roadway leading from the farm-house, and have tried to visualise and picture the feelings of that boy as he went into that small enclosure to pray. And from that momentous event I again said to myself: "What hath God wrought!"

The time had come when our Father and His Son Jesus Christ should again manifest themselves unto mankind, and the boy prophet become a new witness for God and be able to testify that God lives, that he saw Him, that he heard His voice and that he was directed by His Son as to what his future conduct should be.

When we think of the tremendous work the boy prophet did in the few short years of his life, we must conclude that it was no easy task. He established the Gospel of Jesus Christ. By the power and gift of God he translated and brought forth the Book of Mormon. Under the direction of the Lord a gathering place was established around Kirtland, and a few devoted men and women erected their house to the Lord—a house which is still holy to the Latter-day Saints.

I wonder if many of us have tried to visualise what it meant to those few people in the way of sacrifice to erect that house, and how the Lord blessed them for their efforts. However, there was no rest in Kirtland. Persecution became so severe that the prophet and the leading brethren moved to the land of Zion, the Lord having revealed that this should be the gathering place of

*Address delivered at an overflow meeting of the Ninety-fifth Annual Conference, in the Assembly Hall, Salt Lake City, Utah, April 5th, 1925.

the Latter-day Saints. There they met the inevitable conflict between the North and the South and suffered the consequence, being compelled to move from Missouri to Nauvoo, where they settled and developed a community, building a magnificent temple. Here the Prophet received more doctrine and principles of government from the Lord, and the city of Nauvoo grew so rapidly that it bade fair to rival Chicago.

But the great conflict between the force of evil and the work of the Lord again developed. The Latter-day Saints were burdened, murdered and compelled to leave their wonderful city and its marvelous temple, and journey yet further westward across the wastes of Iowa, Nebraska and Wyoming.

I have often thought of what a weeding-out process this great movement proved to be, for if there were any weak-kneed people, if there were any whose hearts were not filled with a testimony, they could not help but be thinned from the ranks of the Latter-day Saints. Many followed former leaders of the Church and strayed away into various groups. These have gone into oblivion; however, many held on to the Gospel with what we might call a "bull-dog grip", coming to these valleys under the masterful leadership of the Prophet Brigham Young. Here they occupied these valleys of the Mountains and established a new and higher civilisation, based upon the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The world has seen many civilisations rise and fall, most of which have been founded upon the lust for power, wealth and dominion over others. We have noticed this in the old civilisation of Europe. Such was the condition in other parts of the world, whereas the Constitution of our great country was established by men who were inspired of the Lord, and the land of America was redeemed by the shedding of blood: and upon this continent, this land of Zion, there is being established a better and a higher type of civilisation, based upon human liberty and freedom.

In these valleys the Latter-day Saints are building a higher type of civilisation, under the guidance and direction of the prophets of old, and in obedience to the principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The civilisation of the Latter-day Saints is based upon the statement made by our Lord and Master to the man who inquired what he should do to inherit eternal life. Our Master said: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself." Among the Latter-day Saints there is a spirit of mutual helpfulness, sympathy, brotherly love and kindness, a desire to co-operate in all temporal movements. There is also the spirit of home-making and the love of home and its surroundings; and the people have a desire to own the home in which they live or the land from which they derive their living.

I don't believe in the idea that we should be completely and en-

tirely satisfied with the progress we are making. Neither do I believe in being dissatisfied. All ambitious persons and those who are trying for higher ideals should be unsatisfied with their present condition, for this alone can bring about efforts to reach greater heights.

In the 7th chapter of the Gospel of St. Matthew, there are recorded some wonderful statements made by Jesus Christ. He warned his disciples to

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

"Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

"Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

"A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

"Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

"Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."

We Latter-day Saints are willing to accept this standard. With all the weaknesses and frailties of human nature, both inherited and acquired, we are willing to be judged by this standard.

A few years ago an eminent man from the East called at the Presiding Bishop's Office. He was interested in the great charity movement that has been developed in the United States. He said to me: "I hear you have a very low death rate." I answered that this was so. He asked if he might see the details of the death report for the last ten years and it was handed to him. He then asked permission to examine it alone, and upon being told that he might do so, he studied the large sheets giving numerous details of the causes of deaths. After a time he said: "I am through. I am astounded at the lack of causes of deaths from sex diseases. I notice very few, if any, deaths from alcoholism"; and he then commented on a number of other causes of death, and finally said: "Deaths are the results of the general habits and conduct of life." He drew his conclusions from figures.

While there is room for improvement among our people, we have reason to be proud of the results that are being brought about through obedience to the Gospel. The birth rate among the Latter-day Saints is 7.3 to the thousand. Then, the child born to the average Latter-day Saint home is welcome. This is indicated by the fact that out of each thousand children in the United States, seventy-six die before they have reached one year of age. Among the Latter-day Saints, out of each thousand children born, only forty-one die before they become one year of age.

My brethren and sisters, let us go home not satisfied, but determined to do better than we have in the past to make our home life sweet, to gather our families around us and to keep them fond

of home. Let us develop a love of our fellow men, sympathy with their misfortunes. Let us teach our children to observe the law of tithing, to observe the Lord's day and keep it holy and reserve that day for worship and rest, as the Lord desires. These are fundamental duties of the Latter-day Saints.

May His blessings be with us in every honest endeavour to maintain the high standard of Latter-day Saints is my prayer in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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## A KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

ELDER NEPHI JENSEN

FORMERLY PRESIDENT OF THE CANADIAN MISSION

WHAT WAS THE GREATEST EVENT of your life? You do not have to think long to answer. You can almost answer without thinking. It was your meeting with the most notable persons you know.

It is a great privilege to become acquainted with a man of note. But it is an infinitely greater privilege to become acquainted with the God of wisdom, power, goodness, and love. This is the most glorious experience of a pure life.

An absolute knowledge of God is necessary to salvation. This knowledge alone can give us power over the terrible forces of evil. The Master expressly said, "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17 : 3).

But how can you learn to know God? In very much the same way that you learn to know your neighbour. How do you become acquainted with your neighbour? You do not learn to know him by reading a book about him. Nor can you obtain intimate knowledge of him by a scientific analysis of his work. You learn to know your neighbour by meeting him heart to heart, spirit to spirit.

When you are deeply troubled and your friend comes to you and speaks right out of his heart words of comfort and cheer, that go home to your heart, in that sweet hour you obtain your deepest knowledge of your friend. You learn his spirit and attitude towards you. It is only by this direct contact with your friend that you really learn to know him. Even so, it is when your heart speaks to God and His Spirit speaks to your spirit that you learn to know God.

A skeptic and a student of religion walked together in a canyon, one day. As the two walked along they came to a great high rock, with a deep seam across it. The dark seam instantly attracted the attention of the skeptic. He turned to the student

and said: "I shall stay here awhile and study the seam in this rock."

"I shall walk over to yonder grove and take a rest in the shade," said the other.

Both acted upon their respective resolutions. The skeptic studied the seam in the rock, the student of religion walked over to the grove.

When he entered the grove he became aware of a deep, beautiful stillness. As he walked farther into the forest the quietude seemed to be intensified. Something seemed to say, "God is here." Then he said to himself: "I will draw yet nearer to my Maker." He bowed in humble prayer. In simple words he expressed his heart's gratitude to the God of goodness. With sincere faith he pleaded for the blessings he needed. While he yet prayed a beautiful spirit of comfort, harmony and certainty came into his heart. In that holy hour he became absolutely certain that he was near the very heart of God.

That student found God. The skeptic found some new facts about geology. When the two met the skeptic eagerly told of his new discoveries. The man of faith also told what he had learned in the grove. But the geologist laughed him to scorn.

The skeptic little knew that his laughter betrayed his ignorance. For he went direct to nature for a knowledge of nature. He went direct to the rocks for a knowledge of the rocks. The student literally followed the example of the skeptic. He went direct to God for a knowledge of God.

It is by actual contact with God that we gain a knowledge of Him. There is no other way. When we seek Him with all our hearts and His Spirit speaks peace and comfort to our souls, we truly learn to know Him. The Apostle Paul understood this great truth. He wrote about it to the Romans: "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God" (Rom. 8: 16).

On one occasion Jesus asked His disciples: "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?" After the disciples had told Him what different people had said about Him, He said: "But whom say ye that I am?" Peter answered: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Then Jesus said, "Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 16: 17).

Peter was blessed because he had received a knowledge of the divinity of Christ through a revelation from God. Flesh and blood could not give him this knowledge. No human power could give it to him. Only God can give anyone a knowledge of God. Jesus expressly said: "All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him" (Luke 10: 22). Paul bore testimony to the same truth:

"No man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost" (1 Cor. 12: 3).

The Holy Ghost is the great infallible witness for God and His Son Jesus Christ. Mark the Master's words: "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me" (John 15: 26). The Holy Spirit is the great medium of revelation from God to man. This truth is definitely declared in the Master's words: "He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you" (John 16: 14).

Joseph Smith the Prophet restored to the world the key to the knowledge of God. At the age of fourteen, when he was greatly perplexed concerning which church he should join, he read God's promise: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not." He believed this promise. He put it to the test. In a grove near his father's house he prayed for wisdom. His prayer was answered. God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ appeared to him. That day the key to the knowledge of God was restored to the world. Prayer that asks in faith and receives is the real key to the knowledge of God.

Thousands of pure hearted men and women who have heard the thrilling story of Joseph Smith's first vision, have been led to seek God, and have truly found Him.

But only people of the purest lives can obtain the knowledge of God. The "things of the Spirit of God" are "spiritually discerned" (1 Cor. 2: 14). Only those who are pure in heart and clean in mind can have communion with the Spirit of God. "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God" (Matt. 5: 8). This purity of heart and holiness of mind is the highest and noblest human attainment. It is the one qualification for fellowship and communion with our Eternal Father.

## FROM THE MISSION FIELD

**Baptism**—A baptismal service was held at the seaside at Portsmouth (London Conference) on August 28th. Two candidates were baptised by Elder Dan A. Hickman, and confirmed by Elders Joseph F. Smith and Arthur S. S. Bulstrode.

**Branch Conferences**—Of the Sittingbourne Branch (London Conference) on August 15th. The speakers were President Carl E. Pettersson, and Elders Lawrence W. Bramwell and Frank Miles Argrave.

Of the Gravesend Branch (London Conference) on August 15th. Elders Devirl B. Stewart and Samuel P. Martin were the speakers.

Of the South London Branch on August 22nd. The speakers were President Carl E. Pettersson and Elder Devirl B. Stewart.

## TO A HUSBAND

Suppose, dear one, this day should be
The last on earth for you or me;
That one of us, life's journey done,
Would never see another sun
Arise upon the smiling earth,
Or see another spring-day's birth;
Supposing all of this we knew,
But not which one; what should we do?

Would not each moment of our stay
Bring some new token on its way,
Of fond regard, of love supreme;
To make each flying moment seem
A little space of heaven on earth,
A prelude to the heavenly birth?
Would we not each do all we might
To make the other's trials light?

Now, very soon, for aught we know,
The call may come for one to go.
Then let us live each passing day
As if it were our last to stay.
You do for me; I'll do for you;
And so we'll pass life's journey through,
And all there is of heaven below,
We'll get each moment as we go.

Luella S. Lindsay Porter

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## DEATH

Jagger—On Saturday, August 1st, Sister Ellen Jagger, eighty-eight years old, died at her home in Bradford (Leeds Conference). Sister Jagger was born March 19th, 1837, and was baptised in 1845. Funeral services were held at the home on August 4th under the direction of Elder Don J. Thurgood, who with Elder Reed M. Ogden were the speakers.

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LIVERPOOL

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